

Emily L. Richardson Hewitt, 90



Emily Louise Richardson Hewitt, age 90, passed away on March 22, 2018 at home in Duxbury.

Born in Boston in 1927 to Jeffrey and Henrietta Richardson, she was educated at The Park School, Beaver Country Day and Vassar College. She had an early career as a math teacher before marrying her husband of 56 years, Charles Colby Hewitt Jr. on September 8, 1948. Her lifelong focus was on raising her loving family and being an involved member of the community. As a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother she supported, applauded and celebrated each of her family members' accomplishments large and small.

Emmy was also an avid sportswoman who was always up for a game: a tennis or golf match, a summer sailing race or skiing the slopes with her family. Her natural athletic prowess shone through especially in her tennis game. Recently the Duxbury Yacht Club renamed the Women's Singles trophy the Emmy Lou Hewitt Cup in recognition of her 13 women's singles titles as well as 40 other tennis titles she won over a five-decade span. This combined with numerous other tennis titles from the town of Wellesley, The Country Club and additional awards in golf and sailing typified her natural sporting ability. Most importantly she always brought a "do your best and be your best" attitude to these activities; competition and sportsmanship was equally important to her. She also enjoyed watching sports and was a life-long Red Sox fan, and she would enthusiastically teach her children how to score the game. Her favorite player was Jimmie Foxx.

The outdoors was not all about sports for Emmy. She relished in the beauty of the marsh and wildlife that surrounded her Marshfield home. She taught her family to recognize the wide variety of indigenous birds. In the deep of winter Emmy and her husband Colby would cross country ski on the snow-covered marsh.

Emmy was a strong believer in her responsibility to care for others and in the power of education. Back in 1938, before WWII, when she and her two best friends were 11 years old, they volunteered as "candy strippers" at the Woman's Free Hospital. During the war, she felt patients with the greatest need were at Mass General Hospital's Phillips House. Rain or shine, she would wake up at the crack dawn and take the trolley at 5 am into town to begin her volunteer work before heading off to school. These early experiences led her to become heavily involved with the Jordan Hospital, where she served as a member of the board and was the longest serving chairman of the Development Committee (over 10 years). She was personally responsible for garnering many of the largest gifts received in Jordan's history; it was hard to say no to Emmy. She was also actively involved over the years in other philanthropic endeavors: Vassar College (trustee of alumnae board), Beaver Country Day School, New England Farm and Garden Club (president) and many other local charities. For many years she was an active member of The Duxbury Yacht Club, The Country Club and The Chilton Club.

Emmy is survived by four children: Chuck (his spouse Teak Hewitt), Lee (her partner Veronica Besancon), William Hewitt and Robert Hewitt (his spouse Teresa Sarno), as well as seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She was pre-deceased by her loving husband Colby, her sister Henrietta and beloved son Jeffrey. Emmy's positive attitude and spirit was enjoyed by so many throughout her entire life.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 12 at 11 a.m. at the First Parish Church, 842 Tremont St., Duxbury and will be followed by a reception. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Cranberry Hospice and Palliative Care, BID Plymouth, 36 Cordage Park Circle, Suite 326, Plymouth, MA 02360 or to the Emmy Lou Hewitt and Dowd Danner Endowed Fund at BID Plymouth, BID-P Philanthropy Office, 291 Sandwich St., Plymouth, MA 02360. Donations can also be made online at bidplymouth.org. For online guestbook, visit macdonaldfuneralhome.com.